

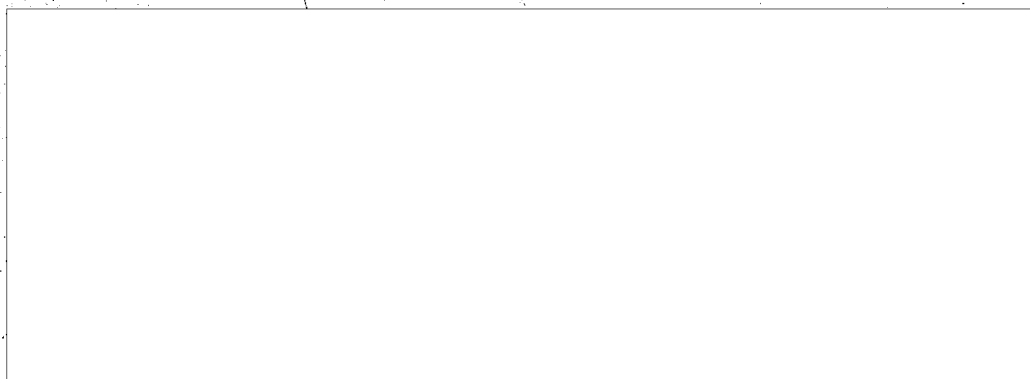
15 September 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, CIA

FROM: Assistant Director Special Operations

SUBJECT: Move of Communications Division to "L" Building

1. It is estimated that the following costs over and above that incident to moving straight office space will be incurred by moving the Communications Division:



2. The greatest difficulty encountered in the move will be that incident to moving teletype and associated equipment. This difficulty is aggravated by personnel shortages since it will require operation of two separated places for an estimated two to three months, with a current shortage of 15 persons in the Signal Center. The move itself will require a minimum of two to three months to complete since removal and installation of equipment must be done by our own personnel. At present we have only three teletype maintenance men, with six authorized and three being processed. These men at present have more work than they can do since there are 113 teletype units installed and operating, including FBIB, [redacted] ORS, etc. The work of the move must be done by these three men although it might be possible to obtain outside aid.

3. Operation with the Communications Division divided and/or physically separated farther from the remainder of OSO than at present would greatly increase the difficulty of efficient operation by reducing coordination of activities to a dangerous point. Operations require extremely close working relationships between Operations Sections of OSO and CCD, and between the elements of CCD. Practically all operations and operational planning are a joint procedure involving the Cipher Control, Operations, Engineering, and Supply Sections of CCD, with the respective desks in OSO Operations. These are not casual liaisons but day to day conferences and close working contacts.

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4. The Signal Center also works closely with the rest of CCD and OSO Operations on a continuing operational basis, although entering into the planning to a more limited extent. However, plans must often be checked with the Signal Center to see if they are workable.

5. Division of the Signal Center itself would make its operation extremely difficult. Close supervision is essential to its operation. Division of the section would place one person responsible for detail operation of two separated installations. It would further require approximately 12 persons in addition to the present authorized Table of Organization to permit continuous operation of two points rather than one. Traffic would necessarily be delayed due to additional handling required and the chance of error and compromise greatly increased.

6. It is therefore considered essential that the Communications Division be kept together in one location and that if OSO is moved, all of the Communications Division be moved to the same place at the same time.

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